

**Testimony-Bill Barnes
In Support of HB 4163
House of Representatives
June 26, 2006**

My name is Bill Barnes. I am an 19-year Cancer Survivor from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

My cancer was caused by inhaling secondhand smoke. One third of my tongue was removed with the pathology report showing high levels of tar and nicotine even though I have never smoked. A second cancer took my voice box in December 1998. Again some doctors said secondhand smoke contributed to this cancer because of my work environment which contained many smokers.

1 out of 5 Michigan citizens smoke but 80% of non-smokers run the risk of possible side effects due to their exposure to smoke. Possible side effects could be cancer, heart attacks, emphysema, strokes and many other related diseases.

I know what it is like to live through the fear and frustrations of having cancer. The side effects of treatment have caused me to lose the ability to speak normally – so I use an electronic speaking device.

Please pass HB 4163 and protect ALL Michigan workers from secondhand smoke.

Thank you.

Bill Barnes
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